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**IN THE CLAIMS**

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling a portable range extender capable of supplying electrical energy to a vehicle, the range extender including a dynamoelectric machine mechanically coupled to an internal combustion engine by a shaft and electrically coupled to an electric power source wherein said dynamoelectric machine is sufficiently sized so that it can drive the shaft to start the internal combustion, the method comprising the steps of:

applying electrical energization from a power source to the dynamoelectric machine for operation thereof as a motor to drive the shaft in rotation in response to an initiation input;

sensing the rotational speed of the shaft;

sensing the temperature of the engine;

in response to a sensed rotational speed that meets a first predetermined speed threshold and a sensed engine temperature that meets a predetermined temperature threshold, supplying fuel to the engine and activating ignition of the engine for operation thereof as a prime mover; and

after a period of engine prime mover operation, activating the dynamoelectric machine for operation thereof as a generator to provide an electrical current output.

2. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein:

the power source is a direct current source and the step of applying electrical energization to the dynamoelectric machine comprises inverting an output voltage of the direct current source to alternating current.

3. (Original) A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the direct current source is a battery for operation of a vehicle traction motor.

4. (Original) A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the step of activating the dynamoelectric machine as a generator comprises producing an alternating current output of the dynamoelectric machine and converting the alternating current output to a direct current output; and further comprising the step of applying the direct current output to charge the battery.

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5. (Original) A method as recited in claim 4, further comprising the step of applying the direct current output to drive the traction motor.

6. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said period of engine prime mover operation is a predetermined time interval.

7. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, wherein dynamoelectric machine generator operation is activated when the sensed shaft rotational speed meets a second predetermined speed threshold higher than the first predetermined threshold.

8. (Original) A method as recited in claim 1, further comprising the steps of:  
terminating the supply of fuel to the engine when the engine is to be stopped;  
maintaining ignition activation of the engine after the fuel supply has been terminated;  
and  
deactivating engine ignition when fuel has been eliminated from the engine, thereby to avoid engine backfire.

9. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the deactivating step is delayed for a preset time period.

10. (Original) A method as recited in claim 8, wherein the range extender is self contained within an enclosure that is independent of a vehicle and the steps of applying electrical energization to the dynamoelectric machine, supplying fuel to the engine, activating ignition of the engine, activating the dynamoelectric machine, terminating the supply of fuel and deactivating engine ignition, are controlled by a controller contained within the enclosure.